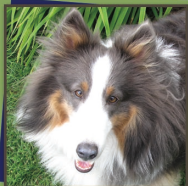


**Clara was killed in this trap in Vermont.**

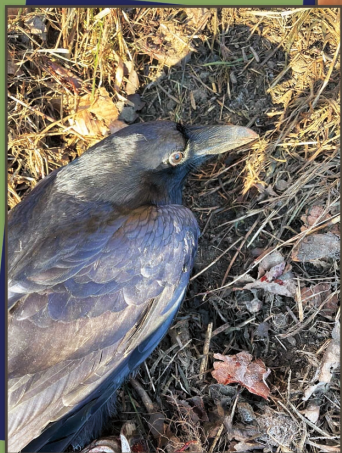


Clara

Leghold and body crushing kill traps injure and kill both targeted animals like bobcats as well as dogs and cats every year in Vermont.

According to a Vermont Fish & Wildlife Survey, two thirds of Vermonters oppose recreational trapping or trapping for fur.

*This kitten lost her leg to a leghold trap and was thankfully saved by a Vermont rescue organization.*



Vermont protected species, like this raven who was caught in a leghold trap, are trapped every year.



*This bobcat is painfully caught by the leg in a trap.*



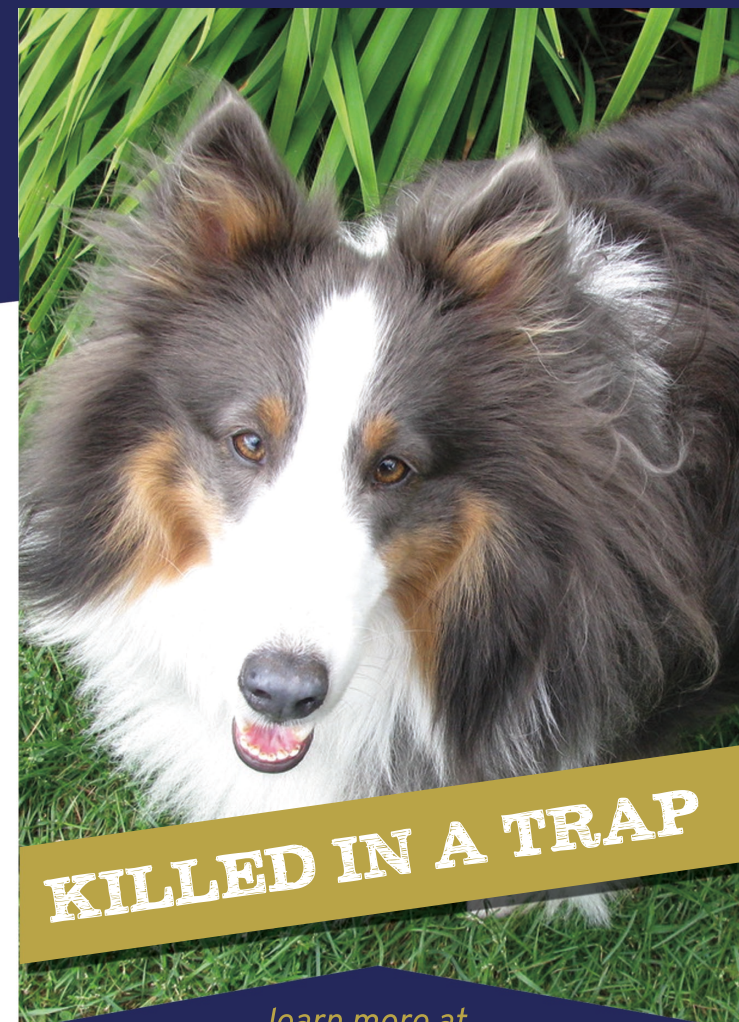
PO Box 3024  
Stowe, VT 05672  
802-253-1592

[info@ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org](mailto:info@ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org)

**POW is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization**



# THE DANGERS & CRUELTIES OF TRAPPING IN VERMONT



**KILLED IN A TRAP**

learn more at  
[www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org](http://www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org)



# THE GRIM REALITIES OF TRAPPING IN VERMONT

*All images of trapped animals are from Vermont.*

Each year in Vermont, countless animals classified as “furbearer” species such as bobcats, foxes, and otters are trapped during the recreational trapping season.

Non-targeted animals including dogs, cats, black bears, owls, eagles, and even turtles are also trapped due to the non-selective nature of traps. Untold numbers of other animals are trapped under the largely unregulated practice of killing wildlife in defense of property (title 10 §4828) that occurs year-round.

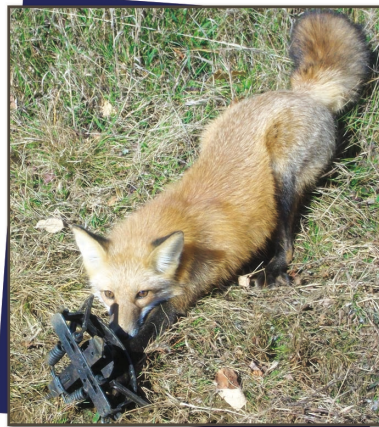


*Raccoons are known to chew off their own limbs to free themselves from traps.*

*Animals pull against the trap in a desperate attempt to free themselves.*



*Foxes and other animals are trapped during times of year when they have dependent young (as allowed under title 10 4828), leaving orphans behind to die.*



- The recreational trapping season starts on the 4th Saturday of October and ends on March 31.

- Trappers are not required to enlist the assistance of a wildlife rehabber, veterinarian, or other expert when they trap a non-targeted animal, which means injured animals are released.

- Traps are set on public lands, including National Wildlife Refuges, with no required signage.

- Trapping laws are difficult to enforce.

- There is no limit on the number of traps a trapper may set at once, which means areas can be saturated with them.

- There are no bag limits on the number of animals that may be trapped (in season).

- Trapping does not stop the spread of disease or manage population.

- Trappers bait their traps with animal flesh and scent lures which attract non-targeted animals, including protected species, placing them in danger.

Trapped animals are subjected to harsh elements and suffer from blood loss, predation, severed tendons, torn ligaments, dislocated joints, broken teeth and bloodied mouths (from desperately chewing at the trap to free themselves).

Many die trying in vain to escape the jaws of the trap. With no other hope of escape, trapped animals may resort to chewing off their own limbs. Trappers call this grim act of despair “wring-off.” Animals like muskrats are trapped in underwater cage traps, drowning multiple animals at once.

Under the “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) for trapping, as enacted per Act 159, fully 30% of all animals trapped could potentially suffer severe injuries like amputation, compound fractures, severe internal organ damage, spinal cord injury, or death and still meet the BMP criteria!



*BMP-approved trap with severed paw.*

*If these injuries were inflicted upon a domestic animal, the person would be in violation of Vermont’s cruelty to animals statute.*